

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for supporting and bracing the thoraco-lumbar region of an individual's spine when said device is worn by said individual, said device comprising:

a. first and second elongate bracing rods having upper and lower ends and disposed in generally parallel relation to one another, said first and second bracing rods being positionable on opposed sides of said individual when said device is worn by said individual;

b. a posterior traction belt extending across said upper most ends of said bracing rods and positionable across a region of said individual's body, said region being selected from the group consisting of the individual's anterior shoulders and the individual's chest;

c. at least two anterior traction slings extending across an intermediate portion of said first and second bracing rods and operatively positionable against a region of said individual's spine, said region being selected from the group consisting of the individual's thoracic vertebrae, the individual's lumbar vertebrae and said individual's sacral vertebrae; and

d. a pelvic arch affixed to and extending from the lower most ends of said first and second bracing rods and operative to be positioned against a portion of the individual's pelvic region, said region being selected from the group consisting of the anterior superior portion of said individual's ilium and the anterior section of said individual's hip joints.

2. The device of Claim 1 wherein said device further comprises a mechanism for adjusting the tension and traction force imparted by said posterior traction belt.

3. The device of Claim 1 wherein said device further comprises dedicated mechanisms for adjusting the tension and traction force imparted by each respective one of said anterior traction slings.

4. The device of Claim 1 wherein said device further comprises a mechanism for selectively adjusting and securing into position said pelvic arch.

5. The device of Claim 4 wherein said pelvic arch is operatively coupled to said lower-most ends of said first and second bracing rods such that the height of said pelvic arch member relative the individual wearing said device may be selectively adjusted.

6. The device of Claim 1 wherein said device further comprises a support bar extending from the top most ends of said first and second bracing rods, said support bar having a generally arcuate shape and operative to extend behind the shoulders and neck of said individual while such individual wears said device.

7. The device of Claim 6 wherein said support bar is provided with foam padding.

8. The device of Claim 1 wherein each respective one of said anterior traction slings is provided with foam padding.

9. The device of Claim 1 wherein said pelvic arch member is provided with foam padding.

10. The device of Claim 1 wherein said posterior traction belt of said device may be operatively positioned against a region of said individual wearing said device selected from the group consisting of the anterior shoulders, upper chest and below the chest.